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July/August 1998, Vol.5 Number 10



Some Family's Values
Pg's 8 & 9

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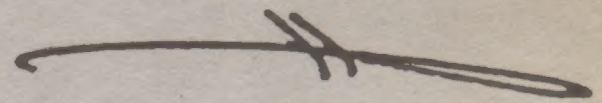
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Times .10
Your Magazine of Choice
 Vol. 5 Number 10
 July/August 1998
 Edmonton, Alberta

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FYI: News & Notes from the HIV/AIDS Battlefront

"Stress May Affect AIDS Survival" Pathfinder Online

A recent study published in the journal *Psychosomatic Medicine* indicates that stress may be involved in increased HIV progression. Researchers found that monkeys separated from familiar companions 90 days before or 30 days after inoculation with SIV developed the disease faster than those monkeys that were not separated.

"Prenatal Program Helps HIV Moms, Newborns" Fox News Online

Researchers at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, Pa., and the New York State Department of Health report that HIV-infected, drug-using women participating in the New York State Medicaid's Prenatal Care Assistance Program were half as likely as women who did not use the program to give birth to low birth weight or preterm infants. Approximately one-quarter of the women involved in the program gave birth to either preterm children or infants with birth weights under five pounds, as compared to one-third of women not in the program. The researchers, who published their findings in the current issue of *Obstetrics and Gynecology*, noted that "improving these birth outcomes may also decrease the likelihood of (mother-to-child) HIV transmission."

"HIV Risk Behavior Among Drug Users Remains High Despite Interventions" Reuters Health Information Services

Research published in the May 28th issue of the journal *AIDS* reveals that psychological interventions designed to increase risk reduction for HIV transmission among intravenous drug users are not achieving the desired results. Dr. David R. Gibson of the University of California, Davis Medical Center in Sacramento, and colleagues studied 19 reports on the efficacy of group counseling, HIV testing, street outreach programs, and behavioral modification intervention. The researchers found that there were unacceptable levels of risk taking behavior even after intervention had produced marked behavioral change in nine of 15 studies; four studies were thrown out due to serious design problems. In conclusion, the authors recommended that more potent interventions be implemented.

"Trends in HIV Incidence Among Young Adults in the United States" Journal of the American Medical Association

Researchers from the National Cancer Institute analyzed AIDS surveillance data and back-calculated the HIV incidence among 20- and 25-year-olds in the United States in 1988, comparing the results with HIV rates among the same age group in 1993. As of January 1993, homosexual contact was the primary cause of HIV infection among young men and heterosexual contact was the leading cause among young women. There were about 22,000 HIV-

positive men and 11,000 HIV-positive women aged 18-to-22 years at the time. Between 1988 and 1993, the researchers found a 57 percent reduction in HIV cases among 20-year-old white men and a 75 percent reduction in 25-year-old homosexual white men.

"Scientists Take First Pictures of AIDS Virus Attacking Cell" New York Times

Scientists have created the first pictures of HIV infecting a host cell using computer-generated imaging based on X-ray data. Researchers at Columbia University in New York City and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston published the results in this week's issues of the journals *Nature* and *Science*. The research used stripped down versions of the virus and two sites that it attacks for the X-ray pictures. The pictures show HIV attacking the two target sites, providing information on how the virus infects cells. HIV attaches to one site and then changes shape, exposing another snare which attaches to the second site. The hidden snare is thus invisible to the immune system. The pictures show that the surface of HIV is cloaked in sugar molecules, which may afford the virus immune protection since it does recognize the sugars as foreign. They also illustrate the exact shape of the virus's probes—the CD4 receptor and the chemokine receptor. The CD4 receptor appears to thrust into the base of a cavity in the probe. Disrupting this connection may be one way to prevent host cell infection. Due to HIV's two-target method of infection, vaccination against the virus may be difficult.

Expert: Drug May Offer Hope for AIDS" Reuters

A top AIDS researcher said Thursday that certain monoclonal antibodies, such as Ortho Biotech's OKT3, may be effective in flushing the body of HIV that often remains in a patient's body after treatment with drug cocktails that have eliminated all signs of infection in some patients. Even though the infection is not evident, some experts believe HIV can hide in resting immune cells for years. In a commentary in the journal *Science*, David Ho—of the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York—said that activators such as bacterial superantigens or a certain class of monoclonal antibodies may be able to stimulate the immune cells where HIV is hiding and completely flush HIV from the body.

"Parts of Africa Showing H.I.V. in 1 in 4 Adults" New York Times

A new United Nations report indicates that in some parts of Africa, one in four adults is infected with HIV. The study, the first country-by-country analysis of the disease, also revealed that 21 million of the 30 million HIV-infected individuals in the world in 1997 were in Africa. Officials estimated that 90 percent of the African patients were not aware of their infection because of a lack of testing. The worldwide HIV-infection rate is 1 percent for adults and 0.76 in the United States. An estimated 5.6 million people became infected with HIV last year, and 2.3 million died from AIDS-related causes. Dr. Peter Piot, head of the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, expressed concern about the increasing gap in infection and mortality rates between industrialized and developing nations, saying that the gap "shines the spotlight on the have-nots of the epidemic."

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About the Interfaith Association

Twelve years ago, Interfaith Association on AIDS began as a small committee gathered to plan Edmonton's first Vigil of prayer. So much has happened since then. 1997/98 have been years of tremendous change. In April of 1997, our office moved from the Grey Mac Building on Jasper Ave where GLCCE had its home a few years ago. Our current location is in the AIDS Network complex at #201, 11456 Jasper Ave in Edmonton. This large space is now home to all of the AIDS Service Organizations in Edmonton. This seemed like a logical move for us to undertake. It has been a successful integration. Our space is smaller, but then, with our major three-year project ending, so is our budget. More important is the fact that it makes us more accessible to people living with HIV. As well, it connects us with the other agencies and enables us to work closely on joint ventures. The other major change was in staff. After many years, Heather Syren left Interfaith. I have been involved with the agency for three years in

various capacities and am currently the Project Coordinator and office Manager. Heather remains connected in a variety of ways because she works in the resource room at the AIDS Network. So yes she is gone, but not far. The board of Directors is an exciting group of people with much energy and commitment. The slate is not yet full, (they are only three and there is room for ten), but they are full of ideas. They are actively seeking additional Board members from a variety of faith backgrounds. If you are interested in a hands on working board, Interfaith Association On AIDS may be the place for you.

We are currently involved in several projects. The "sustainability Project" with the Alberta Community Council On AIDS (ACCA) is a joint project involving all Alberta AIDS Service Organizations and Health Canada. The projects focus is to toward community ownership of HIV/AIDS as an issue. ACCA's vision is for all individuals and communities to have the resources and desire to use them in such a way to eliminate the harm caused by HIV. Part of this project involves a workshop series around the province between February and November of 1998. This workshop, "AIDS 7 FAITH; Wrestling With God", is being offered in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Banff, Jasper, Stettler, Grand Prairie and hopefully Camrose and Fort MacMurray. If sufficient funds are available, we may go to Whitehorse

and Yellowknife as well. We think this is a very exiting opportunity to bring communities of faith and the issue of HIV/AIDS together. This work is important because faith communities, and their adherents, have often been the source of significant resistance to compassionate care and support for people affected by HIV/AIDS. Our work involves providing these communities, their leaders and anyone else who is interested with basic education and then an opportunity to dialogue on the issues that are barriers to acceptance and support. Why do we do it? People affected by HIV have been clear about the role of faith communities' issues of life and death and serious illness arise. Affected individuals and their families have given us a resounding message that faith communities are often NOT affirming and supportive and that they would like that to change. They need to be educated and supported to move beyond fear and ignorance to a place of compassion and sensitivity. They need to become accessible to individuals and families who are struggling with HIV in their lives, without fear of rejection or discrimination. In Alberta, no one else is specifically working in these communities but Interfaith Association On AIDS.

We are still involved in resource development with the support of the Provincial AIDS Program and have recently produced a multi-faith AIDS poster and a Jewish response pamphlet.

We have a couple more resource projects in the works that are very exciting as well.

One of the biggest goals we have set for ourselves is to raise the profile of our agency and its work. So many individuals, faith communities and agencies don't even know we exist. Some of those who know who we are, are really not sure what it is we do or are convinced we are some kind of "religious organization". So we are trying to change that. We are developing an info package and having information nights a couple of times a year. If you would like more information on either of these, please call the office at 448-1768.

As you make your plans and commitments for 1998/99, we hope that the Interfaith Association On AIDS comes to mind. Consider donating your time to our Board or making a financial contribution to our work. HIV/AIDS belongs to us all, perhaps most especially communities of faith and the people in them. We know that our work is making a difference and are committed to a vision of open and affirming communities of faith in our province. We will continue to work toward an Alberta that affirms equality, dignity and acceptance for all people. Be part of our work.

ACCA
Mickey Wilson.

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Capital City Politics



Restoring Trust and Excellence

By
Nancy MacBeth – Alberta Liberal Leader

One of the opportunities afforded a new MLA and Leader of the Official Opposition is the chance to communicate with Albertans on a variety of issues, through a number of different venues. In the upcoming months, I look forward to meeting with Albertans in order to listen to their concerns and best serve the needs of the people of this province. In electing me as Leader and MLA, Albertans have expressed their trust and confidence in my experience and the vision I offer. The support and encouragement is both gratifying and humbling.

Health care and education are longstanding pillars of Alberta Liberal policy. My unequivocal commitment to publicly funded universal health care and a strong public education system were primary factors in my decision to return to public life. Responsible, forward-looking policies in health care and education are the foundation for fulfilling Alberta's potential in the 21st century. My intent is to work with Albertans and restore trust and excellence in our health and education systems.

In my discussions with Albertans over the past number of months, their commitment to fairness and a sense of fair play have been striking. Albertans are guided in their decision making by a sense of fairness and expect this of their government. However, the recent inclination of the government to use the notwithstanding clause, potentially to override the rights of Albertans, has caused dismay and anger. It points to a government out of touch with the people. The role of government is to make choices that will benefit all Albertans, rather than setting one group in society against another. A commitment to tolerance and understanding is central to my philosophy and that of the Alberta Liberals.

As we look to the next century I am committed to fulfilling the promise I made to Albertans. Namely, to offer alternatives that are balanced in their approach founded on the principles of tolerance and that strive for excellence.

As Leader of the Official Opposition, I look forward to serving and working with all Albertans.



What a difference a day makes!

By Pam Barrett, Leader, Alberta New Democrats

I'm sure by now that you've had time to digest the enormous impact of the Supreme Court ruling in Vriend's case. We all owe a huge thanks to Delwin and to the many activists who have worked on the case over the years – the members of GALA, the legal team who donated their time, the many members of the wider community who intervened on the side of fairness and tolerance. When the New Democrats made our policy statement in the late 70's expressing our support for gay and lesbian rights, I don't think we ever imagined that it would be 20 years before the government of Alberta got on board. But over the last twenty years the battle has been won by the work of each one of you – by your coming out, writing and calling politicians, standing up against homophobia, and the incredible breadth of community organizing, you have advanced the cause of equality. Way to be!

The ink was hardly dry on the court ruling before we ran into our first opportunity to test the decision: our candidate in the McClung byelection, Carol Anne Dean, was infuriated to receive in her mailbox a horrible leaflet from the Social Credit candidate. In the leaflet, the candidate misrepresented the effects of the Supreme Court decision, by saying "The Vriend decision guarantees gay marriages and adoptions. It also gives pedophiles the 'right' to work with children." Despicable, isn't it? Carol Anne felt that that the pamphlet deliberately stirred up hatred against gays and lesbians – so she launched a complaint to the Alberta Human Rights Commission. Were we trying to stifle free speech? On the contrary! The fact is, if the candidate he had simply expressed his opinion

– which we know would have been contrary to our own – we would not have complained. It was opinion masquerading as fact, and expression of opinion in such a way as to deliberately expose gays and lesbians to hatred and contempt, that we disagreed with. Time will tell the results of the complaint, but I think you'll agree that we need to take action at every turn against this kind of misinformation.

Many of us experienced the vociferous prejudice of the religious right – a small minority – during the week following the Vriend decision. But I was heartened by the huge public support that was expressed for the court decision, and for the overwhelming opposition to using the "notwithstanding clause" to let the government off the hook.

But what now? We know that the right will continue with this kind of hate campaign. We know that they will try to influence politicians to limit the rights of gays and lesbians. We're not entirely sure what's on the agenda of the Premier's "legislative fences" committee, but here's my prediction. It's based on a bill which passed through the legislature in the spring session, called the Protection from Family Violence Act. Guess what? The definition of family members specifically excludes homosexuals. There's just one "legislative fence" for you. I predict we'll see lots more of this.

What does the number of votes given to the Socreds in the byelection mean? Bad news for the Tories, whose traditionally solid vote is now splitting between two parties. Still, the much predicted landslide of votes for the Socreds did not happen; people did not say yes to hate. But the right will not stop these campaigns of homophobia; we can't be complacent. I look forward to working together with you to make sure that the new and equal Alberta really does become a reality. Call me if you want to get involved, and have a great summer!

You can contact the New Democrats GLBT advisory committee at 415-0944 or pbarrett@assembly.ab.ca



Seeking Reelection: October 19

By Councillor Michael Phair

During April and May I spent time evaluating the past 3 years, my second term, as a member of Edmonton's City

Council representing Ward 4. Besides reviewing what I had accomplished, I also met with, and talked to, a number of people representing different communities in Ward 4, or communities of interest like gays and lesbians, or arts and culture. It was important for me to assess what others saw as the 'political landscape' in the ward and whether I had a role to play in it over the next 3 years. I also listened for comments about my reputation as a politician and whether I could be effective in promoting the interests and concerns of Ward 4. In addition, Ward 4 is expanding and will include an additional 30,000 people from the communities of Governor, McQueen, Windsor Park, Garneau, Ritchie, Hazeldean, Avonmore, Argyll, King Edward Park and Terrace Heights. In effect, Ward 4 will now encompass almost all of Edmonton's mature older neighborhoods.

In the end, I had to weigh all of this input and then think through whether I wanted to again run for Council and represent Ward 4. Did I have the interest, energy and commitment to continue to do this work, or might I prefer to move on into other fields and a new job? The past 6 years have been both exhausting and rewarding – personally and professionally. I have been able to learn about, and undertake, a number of activities that could only happen as an elected member of Council and, at the same time, I have had to spend almost all my energy on only City issues. There has been the opportunity to meet and interact with hundreds of citizens from all walks of life while leaving me with virtually no time for any personal life. Like all politicians, most of what I do is lived in a 'fishbowl' and open to daily and constant public scrutiny – from what clothes I wear to my vote on VLTs! And when I had completed this personal review, my decision was to seek another term on October 19.

During the years of 1998 to 2001, among the major tasks I will work on representing Ward 4 are the following:

- improving the status of gays/lesbians/bisexuals in the City. Although the City's employment policies prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, it is now important to include benefit packages to partners of employees of the city. Additionally, the City can promote tolerance and dignity flowers to beautify the city.

There will be a lot for me to do if I am reelected in October. I encourage you to get out and vote on October 19 and I would be pleased if you would volunteer on my reelection campaign!

Councillor Michael Phair

Ward 4 (If you need assistance or have questions about the city please contact my office. 496-8146 phone, 496-8113 fax, or email: mphair@gov.edmonton.ab.ca. campaign office 496-7620.)



How Can Your MLA Assist You?

One of the most important aspects of my job is to make sure the government hears your concerns. I act as an amplifier by raising your concerns and opinions in the Legislature. I can also assist by:

- Providing you with guidelines for preparing a petition and making arrangements for the petition to be tabled

in the Legislature

- If you or your family have concerns about any issue such as education, health care, social services or management of provincial resources, I am available to listen to those concerns and attempt to seek some satisfactory resolution.

- Advocating on your behalf with problems that can be solved by a Provincial Government Department within their mandate

- If you have senior family members who are celebrating a wedding anniversary or birthday, my office can arrange for a certificate to commemorate the occasion

- I have the opportunity to do a "recognition" in the House. This is a one-minute speech to celebrate achievements and mark significant passages eg: a sports team winning a championship or recognizing someone who has received a Volunteer Award

- As a notary public and a commissioner for oaths I am available to commission legal documents at no charge to constituents.

- If you require information or materials concerning any aspect of Provincial Government activity or new task forces, I can provide that information

- If a school group or service club is interested in touring the Provincial

Legislative Building, contact my office.

I am available to meet with your co-workers, your club or organization to listen to your concerns and ideas. Just call me at 414-0743, fax me at 414-0772, e-mail me at blakeman@oanet.com, or drop into the office at 10042 - 116 Street

Dear Fellow Citizen;

April 2, 1998 is a day that is permanently etched in the memory of many Albertans. This is the day the Supreme Court of Canada announced their decision in *Vriend v. Alberta*. After seven years of judicial arguments at various levels, all Albertans would be treated equally. The Supreme Court "read in" amendments to the Alberta Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act to include protections on the basis of sexual orientation. This meant the Alberta Human Rights Commission (AHRC) must hear all cases of discrimination based on heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual orientation.

How did Delwin Vriend win this victory for thousand of lesbians, gay men or bisexual people in Alberta? In the first place, he did not do it alone. There were dozens of lawyers and many community people involved in the battle, many that

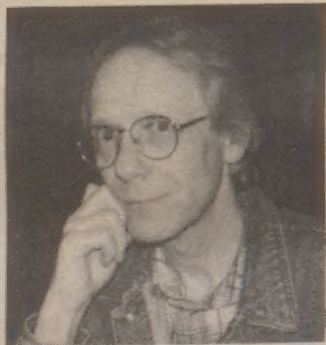
gave freely of their time and energy. Maybe you were one of those people! Did you feel it was your victory too? Did you work on a community fund raising event or even gave money to the help pay the expense of this costly venture? If you have donated already, thank you! If you can once more donate, every dollar helps.

The law firm Chivers, Greckol and Kane took the case pro bono and a number of other law firms and lawyers representing the 13 intervenes did also. But there still were many expenses involved. Although Calgarians raised \$30,000.00 for the DVDF and Edmontonians have donated approximately the same amount there still is \$25,000.00 in arrears.

Will you donate money to help pay these overdue bills? Any amount you can give will be appreciated. If you and everyone you know each give \$20, think of how fast we could pay off the debt. Please make all cheques payable to the Delwin Vriend Defense Fund. We can send you a receipt if you wish although the amount you give is not tax deductible. It has been agreed that any funds collected and not used for this case would be used to finance other cases involving equality issues. Please send your donation to:

Delwin Vriend Defense Fund. Box 1852
Edmonton, AB. T5J 2P2

Sincerely,
Murray Billett



From the Editor

by Dennis Cambly

**Bringing all that's here to light
Bringing all that's here to life....**Jon Anderson

What a wonderful time we have been having over the past month. Edmonton has once again shown our province, and indeed our country, that it is truly a city of tolerance and love. With the election of Nancy MacBeth, the capital city voted for a new Liberal Leader. Congratulations to Nancy, the people who worked the campaign, and all the voters who turned out to use their last freedom in a constitutional democracy. The current dictatorship will be totally baffled when they find out that equal rights apply to women too. What will the "good 'ole boys club" do when they find that the Official Opposition is headed by a female. They will likely be, well, let's just say that the bricks will be falling.

Now, the only opening gay city councillor in the province, Michael Phair, has chosen to put his name on the election ballot for the upcoming civic election. It is now time to work with him on his campaign in every way possible to ensure that he is re-elected for a third term in office. Anyone who knows Michael knows that he has everyone's interest at heart and does a terrific job for all the people in his ward. He will be looking forward to your support, so let us not hold back and wait for the next person to do some of the work needed.

For us at Times .10, we're just a bit giddy these days. When we put out our next issue, we will begin year six. 6 Years!!! Does that mean that we made it past the third issue? We know that the negative forces are just pounding their little fists. Likely down in some dark spot where all they can smell is stale beer and their own puke from years gone by. This grin is for you :-).

On the brighter side though, the many hundreds of people who have or still contribute to Times .10 are more together now. It is a beehive of activity with each

issue and the Capital City shines brightly with a deep sense of commitment. Our first issue contained only twelve groups in the city with four of those coming from the AIDS Network. Now there are forty active groups, and with each passing month more are gathering with new issues and concerns. All are welcome to be a part of the Times .10 Non-Profit Publications Society. Times .10 is the only voice for the Capital City when it comes to dealing with issues concerning homosexuals and those friendly to us. We created this publication so that every community group in Edmonton could broaden their horizons and leave the doors open for people to enter. So brush off the shutters and open the windows to the twenty five thousand people we reach with issue. We have come a long way since the first issue and the readership and recognition is growing every time we publish and issue. People from distant lands now want to contribute to our publication and we welcome them as well.

We also welcome the formation of the

gay and gay friendly business association that is now taking shape. Going into its third meeting, it is very likely that up to one hundred people could be in attendance. All it took was three people sitting down and starting something and it is now getting done. Things do not just drop out of the sky and happen. People around Edmonton are the ones who are making these venues possible for you. You can get involved and meet some wonderful people via many of the community groups.

It only takes that first step "out" into the real world and true enlightenment might just be waiting for you at the next door. The doors of perception are what you make them in your life. Look around this publication and see the people who do not lurk in the shadows. You might be surprised at what you find. Readers... write your own politics of ecstasy.

Have a safe and happy summer...see you in September.

"Some Family's Values"

About Steve Walker



Drawing is one of Steve Walker's earliest childhood memories. He recalls drawing pictures from about the age of three or four years old. Drawing came naturally to the Toronto artist, and his love of the art form continued into his adulthood. As a self taught artist, Walker only began painting after a trip to Europe when he was 25 years old. During the trip, he spent much of his time in Europe touring the great galleries and museums. In his words it was the first time he was exposed to great painting, and the first time he recognized the potential power of the art form. "I was moved by something that I was capable of doing," he said. His first paintings were done in a somewhat secretive way, as he had no intention of exhibiting or selling, and had no aspirations of becoming a professional artist.

Producing art about his life and the lives of those around him is as natural to Walker as his first childhood drawings. As a gay man, Walker is acutely aware that he is living during a period



of history that is both the best of times and the worst of times. There is more freedom and acceptance for gay men and women, while at the same time AIDS has devastated the gay population.

But Walker's paintings are not about gay people or homosexuality. He describes his

art as being about love, hate, pain, joy, touch, communication, beauty, loneliness, attraction, hope, despair, life and death. His art includes universal themes regardless of race, gender, socio-economic class, culture or sexual orientation. However, his work is unique because he conveys these themes through the subjects in his paintings, young gay men. "Remove the gender of the painting's subjects and what we have is human relationships in general, and ones relationship to the world itself," he said. "As a homosexual I have been moved, educated, and inspired by works that deal with a heterosexual context. Why would I assume that a heterosexual would be incapable of appreciating work that speaks to common themes in life, as seen through my eyes as a gay man. If the heterosexual population is unable to do this, then the loss is theirs, not mine."

If Walker were an abstract painter or a landscape artist, he says his sexual orientation wouldn't matter. But since his paintings are about gay life, his sexual orientation becomes more important than his cultural background, age, or nationality.



The focus of his paintings often depict sadness and loneliness to reflect the reality that much of anyone's life is sad and lonely. Walker often portrays people in relationships as separate entities because that is the way he views them. He also uses a small and consistent palette of colours because he is comfortable with them and the colours provide the desired results. "Colour is very powerful and a little can go a long way if used effectively," he said. "Some colours are very exciting to me, while others are quite offensive. Painting flesh is very exciting because of the huge variations possible within a very small colour range."

Walker's artworks are very large, always measuring 36" by 48". He creates large paintings because he believes that a large image is more appealing than a smaller one. "Whether it's a television screen, cinema screen, or an image in a magazine, the size of the image connotes a degree of importance," he said. Walker said belonging to an oppressed minority group has been a driving force in creating his art. "Any minority wants and needs to find artistic voices that reflect their own personal situations, and, in doing so, validate and record their lives and cultures for themselves, and for the larger world," he said.

Walker said he experiences many small rewards during the creative process. "After hours of painting, I stand back and look at something that wasn't there before — a hand, face, or piece of fabric will exist

where there was once a blank canvas," he said. As an artist, Walker said it's exciting to be working at a point in history where there is an audience ready to appreciate and consume his creations. "It is very rare to find success as an artist in your lifetime," he said. "My work will be around long

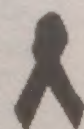


after me, but seeing it affect people at the time that I am creating it is very rewarding."

In recent years Steve Walker's work has been exhibited in galleries in Toronto, Montreal, New York, Philadelphia and Key West.

The gay community of North America has responded very positively to Walker's art. "I am very aware of the appreciation from a group of people who recognize the time, energy and talent devoted to a body of work that speaks specifically to them but at the same time exists in the larger world that we all live in,"

If you have Internet access you can view a collection of Steve's work at <http://www.questart.com>.



In the sharing of everything that makes us who we are—our music, our theatre, our art...we invite other's to share in the celebration of our lives.

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Steve Walker



Please Join Us

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Gay & Gay Friendly Business Owners/Operators

Date: Tuesday, July 14th
Time: 8:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Place: The Garage, 10244-106 Street

Discussion

A continued networking between
community businesses

Fostering stronger communications

Showing unity within our community

Finding ways and means to support our
community groups



*(Let another business know and
bring them to this meeting)*

For further information contact
Jim Schafer at 423-5014 or
Dallas Rossman at 488-1553

Some Family's Values

What family, what values. Individuals in the family have values, no family ever decides what their family values are. Whoever is the strongest in the family decides what their values are, and the rest of the family may spend the rest of their life learning to accept or reject these values. Right wing Christians have made the catch phrase "family values" a cornerstone of their platforms. They go one step further than the strongest family member when they say, "These are our values, Accept them or we reject you."

Sheryl and Maureen

A family's value is the love and support nurtured in our childhood. I am very happy that this love and support in my family continued during my coming out process, and during the many struggles and challenges I have faced in my life. LOVE certainly is a family value...HATE is not!

Jim Kane

A family is a smaller social and economic unit within society. Families set up standards for its members in the form of values. These values then become the basis from which the family unit functions within society. The values usually reflect the society from which the family unit comes. Individuals of the family unit are encouraged by its members to practice family values whenever they are away from the unit and functioning as a member of a society.

Bob Mills

A families value....public policy based on a families value

* would mean that there are many families to be valued, not just one. The religious wrong phrase "family values" assumes that there's only one kind of family - kinda like only one god. I know lots of different families - and they are all equally important to me!

* would mean that the value of families would be more important than, say, the amount of profit reaped by multinational oil companies;

* would mean that things like affordable child care,

premium-free public health care, adequate public education, would be seen as central to supporting the value of families;

* would protect endangered places and wilderness so that people could relax in them together with their families;

* would mean that workers would get paid adequately for their labour, so that they could have time to enjoy with their families;

A families value respects our individuality and our differences, while understanding that our support for each other helps each of us to be our best selves. A families value is what I see around me every day in our wonderful rainbow community.

Lorna Murray

As the traditional intent of creating a (human) family is to make it a permanent group dynamic, there are many factors to consider in terms of what becomes valuable in the preservation and protection of this collection. Here, IMHO, are a few:

Commitment. If it is impossible to fully commit oneself to the responsibilities inherent within the family, nothing else can work. You're not ready for it.

Sacrifice. The good health of the family must always come before your individual ambitions, desires, dreams, etc.

Co-operation. All family members must be prepared to share the burden of work needed to support the family financially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Trust. It is absolutely necessary that a sense of trust be developed within the family structure. All family members need to believe that everyone else involved will do what is required for the group to survive and flourish as a properly-functioning unit.

Love. Love takes many forms over time and enhances relationships (which is a good thing in a family), but is not enough, on its own, to provide a stable foundation for a strong family.

Simple, eh? If you want to be a part of a family, you must be prepared to work at keeping it. This work should not be taken lightly, as it can get very tough to pull off at various times.

Mike Johnson

The values that I have attributed to family are the result of having been fortunate enough to be fathering three wonderful sons. The values that are specifically being challenged by

the morally horrified include the complete and ultimate dedication to the lives of ones children and gaining comfort in the knowing that the love and care one contributes to the lives of such innocence will hopefully, one day, face you as the kind of person you had always known them to be.

The values being challenged include the love of brothers for one another even though they represent opposite ends of the moral spectrum. My brother is a devout Christian and is not a particular fan of either my politics or my lifestyle, and I am as distant from evangelical Christianity as one can get; yet, we love one another and are able to put aside our differences.

The values being challenged include the care and loving that we have created in our own community, a deepness of affection, concern and cooperation that would make any religious organization take notice. These are some of the family values that I think about and make me a better man with each passing day.

Robert

A family's value lies in loving, accepting, and cherishing all members and demonstrating this privately and publicly as part of one's everyday life. For me this means that my love for my partner Debra is something I refuse to hide from anyone. This is an especially important value that I wish to transmit to my offspring, Ryan. To hide or pretend with Rayn would seriously compromise not only my relationship, but indicate to Ryan that it is okay to be secretive about love. To not share with Ryan the joy I feel in my relationship with Debra would require that I give up my own desires and wants and live an unhappy life. I/we choose to celebrate our love instead and this is a family value that we value.

Gloria Filax

THE VALUE OF A FAMILY IS: debatable forever. FAMILY VALUES: are everywhere, always unavoidable, some freeing, some healing, some painful, some destructive. FAMILIES ARE: potentially our safest place and also our most dangerous place, both at the same time.

Liz

Harold Smith

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Fun and Laughter

The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose, The 22nd House of Fun and Laughter present their 23 Annual Charity Ball, The Great Canadian West, A night of Western Fantasy, Hospitality, Fun and Laughter of the Past, Present, and Future. A fundraiser for G.L.C.C.E.S. and P.F.L.A.G.-T at the Shaw Conference Centre, August 29, 1998. This is a major fundraiser event for the above-designated gay charitable organizations. In conjunction with The Ball, a GayFair featuring a number of gay, gay orientated, or gay friendly businesses, organizations and services will be presented. **Between 300-400 people are expected to attend from various cities across Canada (including Edmonton) and the United States.**

On this evening, after a year of high profile volunteer service, Emperor Regent Brian, Empress 22 Jackie 2 Step, Imperial Crown Prince 22, Scott, and Imperial Crown Princess 22 Roxanne Hurd-Pride will step aside as honorary representatives. New representatives will be chosen for the positions of Emperor 23 and Empress 23 by a secret ballot vote of the population (both gay and straight) who live in the area from Red Deer north. Who may run or hold these positions? Anyone who was a

member in good standing of I.S.C.W.R. as of May 31, 1998, makes application for one of the positions, and is approved by an interview committee. Vigorous campaigning for these positions will start midnight July 19 and will end August 22 at midnight.

During the course of the evening of August 29, people will be royally entertained by Edmonton's top Drag Queens and by others chosen by Brian, Jackie, Scott and Roxanne from across Canada and the United States. It will truly be an evening of royal entertainment, western hospitality, fantasy, fun and laughter that one will remember for some time.

There will be a number of awards given out at this gala function. The John DeSmit Memorial Citizen of the Year Award. This award is presented to a person who has contributed freely to make the Gay and Lesbian community in the city of Edmonton a better place to live. The recipient is chosen by last years recipient. The John M. Kerr Memorial Scholarship Fund. A minimum of two scholarships are granted on an annual basis to gay and lesbian students who are pursuing post secondary education in the province of Alberta. Applications for assistance are reviewed once a year and funds are dispersed based upon the decision made by a special committee appointed by the board of directors of the organization. John M. Kerr Memorial Scholar applications are now available at Boots and must be completed and returned no later than August 10, 1998. The Empress I Millicent Lifetime Achievement Award, is awarded to a person for 10 years of outstanding service to I.S.C.W.R. The recipient of this award is chosen by the previous recipient. All monies collected to date from fundraising activities will be given to the designated charities. And finally the 50/50 draw with a possible \$5,000.00

to the winner will be made.

Leading up to August 29, 1998, a number of fundraising events will take place at various venues. July 19 to August 22, numerous candidate shows (those running for the positions of Emperor 23 and Empress 23) will be scheduled. **Sunday, August 23, Kick Off to Ball Week at Buddy's Pub. Thursday, August 27, In-Town Show and Awards at 109 Discotheque. Friday, August 28, Out-Of-Town Show at Boots. The Ball is August 29, 1998 at the Shaw Conference Centre, followed by Victory Brunch Sunday August 30, at Buddy's and Tough Drag, Sunday August 30, at Boots.**

Wanting to save money? Total cost paying at the door for each event will be \$52.00. Save \$12.00. Buy a Coronation Week Pass Packet for \$40.00 (Includes all major events), available only from Brian phone (403) 433-7832. Ball Tickets are \$15.00 in advance, available at Boots and at all court events, \$25.00 at the door. If you are interested in a weekend away from home, the host hotel is the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, Edmonton. Reserve before July 27, 1998, mention you are with I.S.C.W.R or N.R.S.S.N.A. and you will receive a room rate of \$69.00 plus tax.

For your information, The New Royalist Social Society of Northern Alberta (N.R.S.S.N.A.) operates The Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose (I.S.C.W.R.). It is the oldest gay fundraising organization in all of Alberta (22 yrs.). Over the years, the organization has raised funds for gay and gay positive charities. It has also reached out to the community of Edmonton as a whole to make charitable donations to worthwhile organizations. These

organizations have included: Alberta Breast Cancer Foundation, Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton, Miss T Defense Fund, Living Positive, Feather of Hope, G.M.O.C., The Support Network, Catholic Social Services (Kairos House), Aids Network of Edmonton Society, Aids Research U of A, The Edmonton Christmas Bureau, Edmonton Women's Shelter and The Children's Wish Foundation. The monies raised have come from the gay community and are, for the most part channeled back into providing service to our own community.

One of the most positive aspects of the organization is that it is open to everyone. The court does not discriminate against individuals. Our membership represents every aspect of society, both Gay and Non-Gay. A person's gender, life-style or mode of dress has no bearing whatsoever on acceptance in our organization.

The organization maintains that female impersonation or "Drag" as an entertainment vehicle provides an effective fundraising mechanism and gives a highly visible focal point to the activities of the organization.

This organization maintains that people in unusual attire, running about in public raising money for charitable purposes, is a prime example of the similarities between the straight and gay community, not the difference. We maintain that it is not how a person dresses that matters, be it sequined gowns or leather, it is what that person does for the betterment of his or her community that is important.

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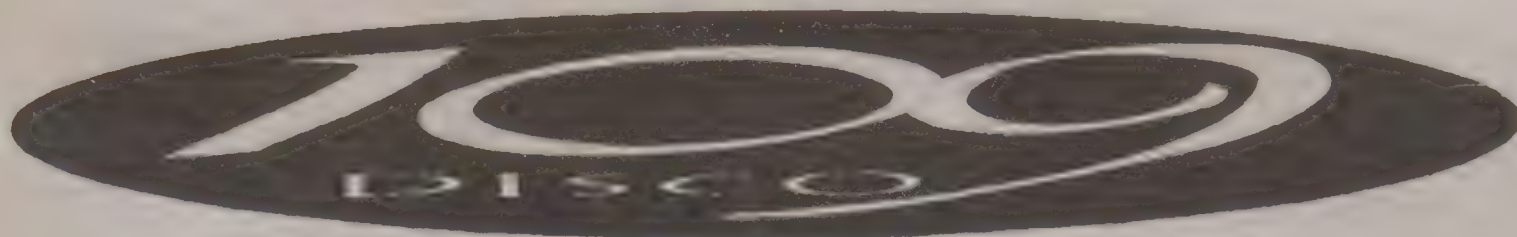
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Edmonton's Gay Community Support Groups and Services

AIDS Network of Edmonton Society

The Network retains its original operating philosophy: to provide support and education wherever it can be helpful in north central Alberta. AIDS Network of Edmonton works cooperatively with all those organizations in Alberta and across the country who are working to help limit the spread of HIV infection. Today the network provides Education, Info-Line, Speakers Bureau, Resource material and various Support groups. If you wish to know more about the Network, call 488-5742. E-mail: anoes@connect.ab.ca.

Affirm United

(United Church of Canada) meets at McDougall United Church 10025 101 St. Last Saturday of the month, at 7:30-9:30 PM. For more info, call: Larry at 429-4269 or Phyllis at 434-4808.

Alcoholics Anonymous

A A is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. Call 424-5900 for times and places of Gay and Lesbian meetings.

AXIOS - Edmonton

AXIOS is an international organization of Eastern Orthodox and Eastern-Rite Catholic Gay and Lesbian Christians. Our mandate is to promote a greater understanding of human sexuality and spirituality within the Eastern Christian tradition. The AXIOS monthly newsletter is available via the Internet. Contact Dushan at 454-8449 for more information.

Bare Naked Boys Club of Edmonton - BNBC

A naturist group of gay men in Edmonton interested in social nudity. This is not a sex club. Men of all ages welcome. Call Fred at 469-7231 for information.

The B.E.A.R.S. of Edmonton

(A group for hairy men and their admirers) meet the last Friday of the month 9:00pm - 11:00pm at Boots n' Saddle. Or write us at #47, 10024-82nd Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6E 1Z3. Our email address is bears@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Brethren Mennonite Council

For Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual concerns. This is a support community for gay, lesbian and bisexual Mennonites and friends. Contact Tim at 434-5360 or Garrett at 423-1725 or e-mail:

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garrett.epp@ualberta.ca.

Dignity Edmonton

This Edmonton chapter is a support community for gay and lesbian Catholics and friends. Contact Bernard at 451-1794 or Dennis at 482-6845

Edmonton Prime Timers

Prime Timers is a social fraternity for older gay and bisexual men and their friends. The purpose of Prime Timers is to provide an opportunity for mature gay men to fraternize and join together in a program of social activities. Meetings held 2nd Sunday each month at the Unitarian Church at 3:00 p.m. If you would like more information address correspondence to Chairman, Edmonton Prime Timers, Suite 1093, 11444 - 119 Street, Edmonton, T5G 2X6. Contact Peter at 426-7019. E-mail: mercury@planet.eon.net

Edmonton Vocal Minority

A mixed voice chorus joining together in a common love of music and a desire to build a greater spirit of unity and pride in the lesbian community. If you are interested in singing with EVM or working in the areas of promotion, staging or front of house concerts and events, please contact us at P. O. Box 12091, Main Post Office, T5J 3L2 or telephone 988-4620. E-mail: evm@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Feather of Hope Aboriginal AIDS Prevention Society

The Feather of Hope was founded on a need to provide AIDS education and support to Native People in Alberta. Through education and the development of communities in partnership, it is hoped that the spread of AIDS will be lessened. We offer training and education programs, as well as support through traditional ways. Volunteers are very important to us, if you can help, or would simply like some more information call 488-5773

Free-To-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. There are 5 leagues: 1) Recreational - Contact Rick at 497-7585; 2) Beach (summer) - Contact Rick at 497-7585; 3) Competitive - contact Andrew at 435-9379; 4) Tournament - Contact Andrew at 435-9379; 5) City - Contact Andrew at 435-9379. Email: andrewschuster@hotmail.com

Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (G.L.C.C.E.)

The centre contributes to the well-being of Edmonton's gay, lesbian and bisexual community through informational, social support services and its social information line. The services offered by the centre include an information line, telephone referrals, library, drop-in peer support counselling and social activities arranged and sponsored by the centre. Further information is available at 488-3234. E-Mail: glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Mens' Coffee Evenings

At 7:30 p.m. Breadstick Cafe at 10159 - 82 Avenue. This group fosters a safe, comfortable environment for all its participants. At the same time, it discourages attendance solely for sexual relations. Join us to relax, share experiences, and establish friendships. There is no age limit. Tel: 403-463-2098 (Graham) E-mail: gwatts@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Gay Men's Outreach Crew (G.M.O.C.)

G.M.O.C. is a peer education initiative for gay/bisexual men that works toward: preventing the spread of HIV amongst men who have sex with men, advocating for healthy lifestyle choices, and addressing social and health concerns by fostering self-esteem and gay positive attitudes. For information on G.M.O.C. workshops and other activities, call our information and contact line at 944-1394 ext 4662.

Gay and Lesbian Awareness (G.A.L.A.)

We are an organization interested in human

rights issues especially related to sexual orientation and changing Federal and Provincial legislation. We are always interested in new members. If you are interested call Murray Billet at 482-7421

Illusions Social Club

A social club for Crossdressers, Transsexuals and their supporters. Our main goal is to provide a safe, discreet and friendly atmosphere where we can socialize as a group. We also provide information and peer support for members. We hold two socials each month, one on the second Thursday and one on the third Saturday. For more information write to Illusions Social Club Please change the mailing address to Box 1852, Edmonton, T5K 2P2; or phone either 488-3234 (GLCCE) on Tuesday evenings to talk to someone person to person.

Imperial Sovereign Court of the Wild Rose

The mission of the Court is to raise funds for charities and other organizations which either provide direct services to gay and lesbian individuals. Meetings of the Society are held monthly on the last Sunday. For meeting location and time please see the Court notice boards in Boots or the Roost Our website is at: <http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/5904>

Interfaith Association on AIDS Edmonton

The purpose of this association is to sensitize local faith communities and their leaders to the unique spiritual and emotional needs of those infected by HIV/AIDS. The following faith communities are included: Anglican, Baha'i, Baptist, Beth Shalom Synagogue, Lutheran, Metropolitan Community Church, Roman Catholic, Temple Beth Ora, Ukrainian Catholic, Unitarian and United Churches. Phone 448-1768 for more information. Email: anoes@connect.ab.ca.

Lambda Christian Community Church

We are a non-denominational evangelical Christian church. One of our primary goals is to provide a safe and affirming environment for all who desire to worship God. Lambda Community Church, 11148-84 Avenue (Gareau United Church) Edmonton, T6G 0V8. Call 474-0753. Weekly Sunday service at 7 p. m.

Liaison Committee, The

In June of 1993, Edmonton Police Service and the Gay and Lesbian community for met a liaison to promote an atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect. For more info, call Edmonton Police Service at 423-4567 or contact the committee at 421-2277

Living Positive

Emotional, spiritual and psychological support is available through Living Positive to all those affected by HIV infection. We also meet weekly and share our mutual experiences. Living Positive is entirely directed by and for people who share a common diagnosis of HIV+. Peer counselling, hospital visits and a speakers bureau are also available through our society. Phone 488-5768

Lutherans Concerned: Edmonton

We are a spiritual community for lesbian, gay, bisexual and straight people. Lutherans Concerned gathers monthly for worship, sharing, and friendship. We offer individual support and a safe space for our own spiritual questions. Call Tim at 482-2294, or write P.O. Box 11095, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3K4 e-mail: luthconc@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Metropolitan Community Church of Edmonton (M.C.C.)

We are a local church within the denomination of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. Our major focus is to the defranchised of society. The UFMCC allows anyone to feel a part of the Christian Community and to claim our place in God's Universe. Services are open to all. We worship on Sunday evenings at 7:15 at McDougall United Church -

South entrance. Please feel free to join us! Call 429-2321 for more information. E-mail: revbev@compusmart.ab.ca

Northern Chaps

Edmonton's Leather - Fetish club for Gay, Lesbian, and straight men and womyn was established six years ago. We strike to educate the rest of the community through workshops, staged demonstrations and events in order to heighten awareness. Northern Chaps meets at Boots & Saddle on the first and third Friday of each month at 9 PM. For information, phone GLCCE at 488-3234. The e-mail address: geoffw@compusmart.ab.ca

Northern Titans

Northern Titans International Bowling League meets every Saturday, at 5:00pm September to April, at Pins & Cues Bowling & Billiards Centre. Southeast corner of Westmount Shopping Centre, 111 Ave. & 135 St. For more information, please call Gary Billet at (403) 454-8609 or Krystal Seitner-Hager at (403) 489-1733.

Out and Out (O2)

An Outdoor and Recreation Group for Edmonton's Lesbian Gay Community and their friends. Membership is \$5.00 per calendar year. Free newsletter published bimonthly and available at local gay hangouts. O2 Hotline is 988-3132 for activity inf., who to contact, how to join etc. Get Involved - Have Fun - Meet New People.

OUTreach

OUTreach is a university-based organization for gays, lesbians and bisexuals interested in an academic atmosphere. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 5:00 p.m. on campus; main floor of the Athabasca hall. Topics vary from week to week. Additional information is available by calling 988-4166. E-mail: outreach@gpu.srv.ualberta.ca

PFLAG

Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians & Gays. PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual persons, their families and friends through support, education and advocacy. Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Newsletter editor Ellen at 465-3057. Outreach to speak confidentially to a PFLAG volunteer 944-1394, Voice Box 3524 (PFLAG) Mon-Thurs, 7-9:30 p.m. (Recording 24 hrs a day). E-mail: showrish@compusmart.ab.ca

Team Edmonton

Team Edmonton - Gay Games Association is set up to provide an opportunity for person interested in participating in the Gay Games through fund raising. If you would like to be involved with Team Edmonton, call 482-2789

The Youth Group

"Youth Understanding Youth", meets every Saturday from 8 to 10 pm at the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton, Suite 103, 10612-124 Street. A social support group for anyone under the age of 25 years. For more information or the give your input, phone GLCCE at 488-3234 or email: glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca

Visions - Unitarian Church of Edmonton

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender discussion group. We meet the 4th Wednesday of the month. Call UCE at 454-8073 or Anita at 454-1992. Not necessarily Christian.

Womonspace

The purpose of Womonspace is to foster a positive Lesbian identity among the larger community and ourselves. We hold dances, produce a newsletter and hold other activities. For information phone 482-1794 and visit our Web Page address is - <http://www.gaycanada.com/womonspace/>



I.S.C.W.R.



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Same-Sex Marriage & Parenting

by April Martin, Ph.D.
Executive Director, Gay
Lesbian Parents Coalition
International

The Hawaii legislature has directed the State's attorneys to use the "procreation" argument in their case against same-sex marriage: Since a man and a woman comprise the biological procreative unit, only heterosexual couples need the protection that marriage provides. Four million lesbian and gay parents are dumbfounded. Are our eight million children not in need of protection?

Same-sex couples are not biological procreative units, but they are nevertheless parents. They raise children in families where, most often, one parent is related only by devotion and hard work to the biological children of the other. The children rely on them, often calling both women "Mom," or both men "Dad." But because they can't get married, non-biological parents feel the ever present danger that a court may not even view them as relevant parties in a custody decision if the biological parent should die or the relationship end in separation. And their children live with the ongoing insecurity that losing one parent in a tragedy might simultaneously mean losing their other parent in a courtroom.

This summer, a Michigan court ignored the pleas of a non-biological mother when the biological mother died of ovarian cancer. The judge even ignored the wishes of the two adolescent boys, raised for as long as they could remember by their two moms, and gave them instead to their biological father — a man who abandoned them until there were Social Security benefits to be had. If the women had been legally married, the court would have viewed her as a valid stepparent. As it was, her years of parenting didn't even merit visitation.

Child custody and visitation issues are the most frequent reasons that gays and lesbians go to court. In a system where unmarried couples are regarded as less stable than married couples, same-sex couples, who would gladly get married if they could, are dismissed for cohabiting without a license. Time after time we are told that we can't have custody of our children because we are not married. Now the State of Hawaii is saying that we can't get married because only heterosexuals need custody protection for their children. What's wrong with this picture?

My life partner and I, who have spent many thousands of dollars on a variety of side-door legal documents in an attempt to protect our children, continue to spend thousands more annually buying additional health insurance because, without a marriage license, we do not qualify for one family policy.

Our children could have used that money for their education.

The State of Hawaii will maintain that heterosexual couples are the optimal units for raising children. Yet Child Development, the most prestigious peer-reviewed journal in its field, says that argument is completely unfounded. Not a single one of the several dozen legitimate research studies reviewed in a 1992 article was able to find any detriment to children raised by same-sex parents. Despite traditional gender hysteria that boys will somehow fail to be manly if raised by either no men or two men (huh?), the children studied turned out indistinguishable from those raised by heterosexual parents.

Meanwhile the adoption profession has become a significant supporter of gay and lesbian parents. They increasingly turn to same-sex couples to provide stable, loving homes for neglected, abandoned, and disabled children who would have nowhere else to go. I know same-sex parents raising children who were born crack addicted, children with AIDS, and children with severe cognitive challenges: Do these families not also deserve the protections that marriage provides?

Unfortunately, our families are up against a serious adversary: invisibility. Those who know we exist still don't understand the discrimination we face.

We've had snippets of mainstream media recognition in the past decade, but gay and lesbian parents are still the least visible segment of the gay community. Media is understandably more excited by gender-bending, AIDS, and sexual explicitness. I have seen reporters' eyes glaze over when, hoping for the inside dope on our families, they hear, "Well, homework. Laundry. Struggles over eating vegetables." It doesn't make vivid copy.

Even the gay and lesbian movement has historically ignored us, buying into the idea that family issues are heterosexual issues. It is just now catching on that the freedom to define one's family is at the heart of the fight against gender-based discrimination.

And in the heterosexually-dominated parenting world, gay and lesbian parents are barely detectable. Homophobia is still an acceptable hatred in the school systems. Teachers who would immediately step in to educate when a child uses racist or sexist epithets will allow kids in grade school to call each other "faggot" without saying a word. Millions of children are not yet safe enough to be able to say they are raised by two female or two male parents. Their non-biological parents are often kept out of view — not brought to teacher conferences, not reported on family contact sheets, not mentioned except perhaps as Uncle Steve, or Mom's friend.

Legal marriage would not solve all the problems of homophobia for these families, but it would grant them sufficient safety to risk visibility. It would be far easier for a mother to say, "This is my wife and we are Alyssa's parents" than it is now for her to say, "This is my lesbian lover who lives with us." If parents can come out to teachers, pediatricians, school administrators, religious leaders, then those institutions will be empowered to protect children from homophobic assaults as well.

Tranny Get Your Gun!

by Darrin Hagen and Christopher Craddock



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Harvey Anderson
Michelle Brown
Sandy Paddick
Aaron Franks

directed by:
Ron Jenkins

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Same-sex marriage, at least for our era and culture, is change. It is the kind of change that remedies prior ignorance, and reflects a society's ability to mature and progress. As humans, we are generally inclined to greet change with anxiety. But those of us who are openly raising children as lesbian and gay parents probably know better than most that the cure for irrational fear is time and exposure.

When our children first went to school, the other kindergarten parents eyed us nervously. If you'd taken a poll that first week, they would have said "Oh, no" to the question of letting their children sleep at the house of lesbians. Our kids are adolescents now, and school friends with sleeping bags have been trooping through our kitchen for years. Some of those very same parents who once looked askance have become dear and trusted friends.

Times change, people learn, and love is ultimately understood by all who care to listen. It is, after all, what makes a family.

Article © Dr. April Martin. (used with permission)
She is a psychologist and Executive Vice President of the Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International. Ms Martin is also the author of "The Lesbian and Gay Parenting Handbook"

Message to all Pride Week Committees:

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Pride;

The Pride Week Committee in the National Capital Region Ottawa-Hull, Canada was able to obtain this letter from our Prime Minister. Please take all the steps necessary to share this with as many Canadians as you can. Here in Ottawa, we will be sending out Press Releases and I encourage you to do the same as we are right in the "Pride Season". I would ask that you recognize that the request for this letter was in reply to a request made by the Pride Week Committee in the National Capital Region.

I want to take this opportunity to invite you all to come and visit us during our Festival (July 10 - 19, Parade and Festival: July 12). Visit our web site and take advantage of discounted rates with Canadian Airlines. Hope to see many of you

come to Ottawa for this event.

Happy Pride to all!

Yvon Vaillant
Chair, Pride Week Committee
(National Capital Region)
(613) 235-5006 (home)
(613) 290-2843 (cell)

Letter from Jean Chretien:

I am pleased to extend greetings on the occasion of the 1998 Pride Week Festival.

One of our society's greatest sources of strength is its diversity. This year's commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the principles of tolerance, fairness, and freedom that are held so dear by Canadians. They have helped us build a country recognized internationally as the best in the world in which to live and where its citizens take pride

in the fact that, as Canadians, we can be different and equal at the same time.

This proud commitment is clear in the words of the Canadian Human Rights Act: "all individuals should have an equal opportunity to make for themselves the lives that they are able and wish to have...without being hindered in or prevented from doing so by discriminatory practices based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status (or) disability..."

As with anything precious, these principles must be nurtured and protected. We must continue to work hard and ensure that Canada remains a country of inclusiveness, tolerance and justice. Pride Week is an opportunity for all Canadians to reflect on these values which unite us all.

Signed by
Jean Chretien
Prime Minister of Canada
Ottawa
1998

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SPEAKING OF "NORMAL"

Liz Massiah, M.S.W., R.S.W.,
Registered Clinical Social Worker

In the previous column, we talked about how intimacy and abuse play off one another, how abuse says "Don't take a chance", or "Don't respect yourself," while intimacy says "Take the chance, stay with the uncertainty and potential rewards of being vulnerable."

Another way of looking at the relationship between intimacy and abuse might go like this: abuse casts a strong shadow on our willingness to trust, to take chances, or to believe in decent-let alone wonderful- outcomes. The shadow distorts and masks our perceptions of ourselves and others, of people and situations. The safe seems unsafe, the unsafe seems familiar and safe.

The abuse shadow also shapes our perceptions of our bodies- they are seen as ugly, shame based, unworthy of healthy attention, deserving of neglect- or they can become the targets of determined control, the passion and desire for the "perfect" body.

The variations are endless- if only I am fat enough, I will be left alone, if only I am skinny enough, I won't be noticed, if only I am smelly and dirty enough, no one will come near, if only I drink enough, I won't feel anything, if only I get big enough muscles, I will be respected; if only I eat enough, I won't notice my emptiness, if only....

Abuse can also cast shadows over our bodies themselves. The body stores memories in many ways- fibromyalgia is often seen in people who have been abused as children, many women who have been sexually abused have "female problems" or "back pain of unknown origin", panic attacks may have started in response to a real physical trauma.

A woman with a lifetime of panic attacks whenever she had a stuffy nose had a severe trauma to her nose as a toddler,

poor medical treatment and care involving nose surgery under a local anesthetic - in her memory, she could clearly see and hear the surgeon sawing her nose in order to reset it. Therapy that addressed the trauma reduced the panic attacks.

Body workers and massage therapists can help explore these old traumatic body memories: their physical care and sensitivity can create the safety needed for such memories to come out of their shadows and be recognized, allowing for more possibilities for emotional healing. Often, this type of "tag team" therapy is extremely effective: helping the body frees energy needed for healing work on emotional issues, while resolving emotional issues helps with the work on the body.

Of course, none of this absolute: not everyone with body problems has been abused and not all abused people have body problems. We also become disconnected from positive body memories: the wonderful sense of safety of being held and nurtured as an infant, for example, is not something most of us can consciously recall. Those sorts of memories are often recalled in healing work, as we reconnect with the scent of our favorite teacher's perfume, the smell of the wood in the fireplace, the sound of a lullaby. Those, too, are also locked away inside, waiting to lighten the darkness. In other words, memories of intimacy and safety can ease the impact and power of the shadows of abuse. This might make intimacy- as we become more able to accept both the intimacy and the belief that we are worthy of it- a kind of light at the end of the tunnel, a way of making the journey through the shadow of abuse easier, and ultimately more hopeful.

Free-to-Be Volleyball Association

The Association aspires to provide opportunities for our community to play volleyball in a supportive atmosphere. It appears that the association has been successful in its mandate as the association continues to grow. We added a new league during the 1997/1998 season and the number of members has increased. As some members leave for personal and professional reasons, they continue to be replaced by new members. This

year we saw some of the former members return as well.

As we begin to prepare for the 1998/1999 season, please help pass the word around. If you know of anybody that might be interested in the association, encourage them to drop by for a game or give one of the co-ordinators a call.

Competitive League

The 1998/1999 season will start up again in late September. We've applied for permanent gyms but are awaiting confirmation on availability, time and location. There will be a \$10/hour fee levied by the School Boards this year. Take a look at the September edition of Times.10 or contact Andrew at 435-9379.

Recreation League

The 1998/1999 season will start up again in late September. We've applied for a larger gym that last year but are awaiting confirmation on availability, time and location. There will be a \$10/hour fee levied by the School Boards this year. Take a look at the September edition of Times.10 or contact Rick at 497-7585.

Beach League

The 1998 summer season has had a great turn out so far. Drop-in to meet new friends or visit with existing friends. We'll be at Gameau Beach Volleyball courts, 10943 84 Ave, Sundays from 2-4 until end of summer. For further information, contact Rick at 497-7585.

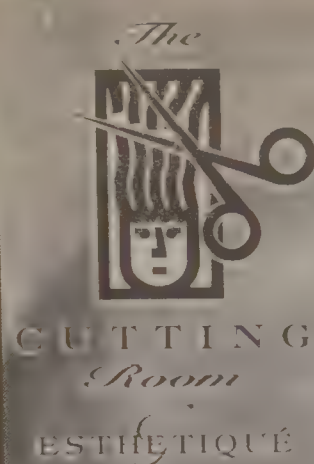
Tournaments

Upcoming tournaments are as follows: Vancouver, July 25-26; Saskatoon, September 4-7; Portland, October 10-12. Edmontonians were positioning to play on three teams at the Queen Vicki Tournament in Vancouver. I'll let you know how it turns out in the fall. Unfortunately, Edmonton will not be sending a team to the Gay Games in Amsterdam in August. Maybe we can plan ahead, do some fundraising and get a team over to Sydney in the year 2002. Sydney is a great city! For further information, contact Andrew at 435-9379.

City League

This league is designed for highly competitive, physically fit, team volleyball players. An assessment will be made in August to see if there is sufficient interest in this league for next year. If you are interested in playing in the 1998/99 season City League, contact Andrew at 435-9379.

Andrew, Rick & Darcey
Association Co-ordinators



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Melons Through History!
Pg. 25

Melons In The News!
Pg. 34

Will the looter find the melons before the soldier finds the looter? Turn to page 56!

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FRIDAY JULY 31ST
DAVEY JAMES vs. CODE RED
Revenge Of The Renegades

FRIDAY JULY 10TH
ANDY POCKETT vs.
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FRIDAY JULY 24TH
DJ CZIOLEK vs.
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REBAR NIGHT CLUB
10551 - Whyte Avenue

Big Changes at GLCCE

By Fred Dicker, Chair of the Board

The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton has grown a great deal in the last couple of years. We are continuing to grow and expand our services to serve the needs of the individuals and groups in our community as well as provide services and information to all Edmontonians.

Starting September 9, 1998, we will have office hours from 9:00 am to Noon, Monday thru Friday. We are very excited about this change. We feel that this will make a tremendous difference in our ability to interact with everyone who might wish to access our information and services. Our evening hours will continue unchanged.

We are also planning to move, however at this time it is not a certainty. For those people who know the history of the Centre are now muttering, "Oh No! Not again." This time we want to move for a lot of good reasons. Our relationship with our current landlord is excellent so we do not want to leave the building. We plan to move up one floor. This will give us a somewhat larger Centre in terms of square metres. However, we do have to develop the new location's floor plan. This allows us to set up our offices and meeting rooms to best serve our needs. We will be able to do more counselling because we will have more rooms to provide the necessary privacy. We will have more space to accommodate larger group activities of all kinds. The new youth group especially needs more room to accommodate their increasing numbers. We will be able to have many more and different support groups and meetings happening at the Centre. We will have space so many more community groups can have an office base at the Centre. We will no longer be in the basement and we will have lots of windows.

We are very excited about our growth. Our information services are getting better with the Internet and our new telephone system. Our library is growing. With our new office hours, our services delivered will grow. With our new

offices and meeting rooms we can become much more of a center of activity in our community.

Everything done at the Centre is now volunteer. The longer-term commitment of the board of directors is to continue this growth and eventually look forward to paid staff. We have a long way to go towards being equal in services that are available to any other community in Edmonton. This growth will need lots of support by members of our community. Do contact us and become a member of the Centre or volunteer your time and skills. We also have our Centre Renter Program. This is for busy people to donate an hour or two of their income every month to help us with our expenses. Please contact us and be part of a success story.

LONG YANG CLUB - EDMONTON

*A New Gay Asian Group For
Edmonton*

I would like to introduce all of your reader's to the Long Yang Club, an International organization to promote friendship and understanding between Asians and Non-Asians. There are Chapters in 24 cities in ten Countries. Cities like London, Paris, Amsterdam, New York, Boston, San Diego, Sao Paulo, Seattle, Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Kuala Lumpur, Melbourne, Adelaide, and very soon Edmonton. Each group holds Social, Cultural, and Educational Activities. Our Activities are both Gay "scene" and "non- scene"

The group is named after Lord Long Yang, a Gay Chinese War Lord mentioned in the Classic Novel " Dream of the Red Mansions". LYC EDMONTON now has a coordinator. However, all LYC Clubs are membership driven and operated, and we still need persons who are willing to become involved in the operation of the Club. SOOOO, if you think that you may be interested, PLEASE contact us as follows:

Long Yang Club Edmonton, 11227- 125 street
Edmonton T5H 4H0- via Canada Post.
email: edmonton@longyangclub.com
Thanks and hope to hear from you.
Sincerely, Kevin D Geransky.

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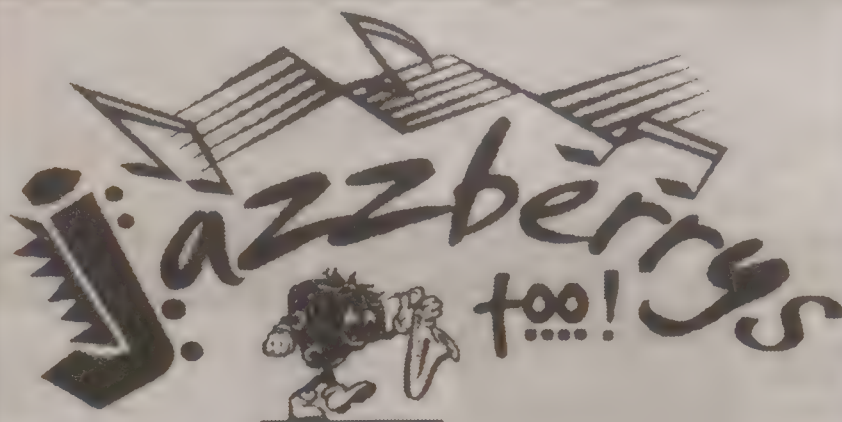
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News From GLCCE



by Fred Dicker

Big Changes at GLCCE:

During the next few months, the Gay and Lesbian Community Centre is planning to grow in two very important areas.

Office hours: September 9, 1998, we will be start holding office hours from 9:00 am till Noon, Monday thru Friday except holidays. This change will make the Centre much more accessible to everyone, especially anyone who has similar office hours. Our evening hours will remain unchanged. The second area of growth is that we are planning to move.

Moving: For many people in our community, the news that the Centre is moving is old news because the history of GLCCE has been frequent moves to new locations. Our plans are big news because we are planning to move for all the right reasons. We have an excellent relationship with our landlord so we are staying in the same building. We want to move up one floor to a larger suite. We will no longer be in the basement. We also will be developing the suite to serve our needs instead of accommodating ourselves into some existing space. Our new location will greatly improve our ability to meet the increasing activity in our growing community.

Help: We need your help. If your believe in the importance of the Centre and our growth, please do support us by becoming a member, or volunteering your time, or participating in our Centre Renter program by donating a small amount of money monthly to help with our expenses. Please contact us.

Peer Counselling:

The Community Centre offers a program of free peer counselling. Our counsellors have been trained by our own training course. They are peer counsellors which means they are members of our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. Our counselling service is free and can be accessed either by dropping into the Centre or by telephone without appointments. Everyone is welcome to use this service: gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their parents, friends, siblings, and neighbors. Anyone who wants to talk about issues or gain information about our community is welcome.

Library:

We have an extensive library of books about our community. Anyone can drop in to the Centre and browse our library or borrow books from it. Our library depends totally on donations so please consider donating some books.

Youth Group:

"Youth Understanding Youth" is proud Support Groups:

The Centre in co-operation with the Gay Men's Outreach Crew offer a number of free educational and support workshops that have the format of a facilitated discussion groups for both men and women. Also, Sundays from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Centre, there is an ongoing facilitated discussion evening for men to drop-in

whenever you can. These evening are being well attended. Contact the Centre or GMOC at 944-1394 ext 4662 for more information. There is also a Gay Men's Coffee Evening every Wednesday at 7:30 pm at the Breadstick Cafe (10159-82 avenue) for anyone to drop in when they can. For more information call Graham at 463-2098.

24 hour Information line:

The Centre is now offering a telephone recorded message service with the phone number of 482-2855. When you call, you will need to enter codes provided by the menus to access various information as you wish. The information will be updated as required. This will be information about

community groups and businesses. The community calendar portion will list upcoming events in our community and will be updated frequently. This service will provide a lot of the information provided on our webpage. The system was started May 1 and as with any new system there have been some bugs. The main bug to date has been the system has been hanging up on you. Please do keep us informed by phoning 488-3234 whenever the system is not working for you.

Internet Webpage:

Our web page is continuing to grow with more information and links. A large number of people are accessing this site. We are now updating the

web page at least once a week. A major part of the page is the community calendar, and it has to be current to be of any use. To help the Centre with our page we need everyone who is planning any events to contact us so we can put it on the page for everyone to see. Around the first and the middle of the month we send the community calendar out to anyone on our email distribution list. If any one has any ideas or information or wants to be on the distribution list, then do contact the Centre.

How to contact the Centre:

The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton is open for drop-in and phone service and counselling from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm, Monday thru Friday except holidays. Location address is Suite 103, 10612-124 street. Telephone number is 488-3234 and messages are returned whenever possible. 24 hour Information line is 482-2855 Mailing Address is Box 1852, Main Post Office, Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2P2 Email address is - glcce@freenet.edmonton.ab.ca Web Page address is - www.freenet.edmonton.ab.ca/glcce

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Let's Play

By Reverend Charles Bidwell

1. What do your friends love about you?
2. What do you like about yourself? What do you offer others?
3. What are your proudest achievements?
4. What kind of person would you connect with & love?

God Doesn't Have Genitals

Our lives and spirits are richer when we can sense the presence of the Divine or the Sacred in our lives. There are many ways to foster that. One is to imagine (image) the Source of our being or the Creative Force which formed our world and all creatures in it. This is an awe-filling Force/Source that is beyond our complete understanding or even imagining, but it is fun to try. Scientists keep telling us mind-blowing things about our universe at its extremes: expanding galaxies and discovering teeny-tiny particles. All things great and small come from the same Creator of All, including us. None of us can comprehend the whole truth about the Tremendous Mystery who created it all. That is why it is helpful and interesting to share our individual images of Divinity. It is also important to listen to others as they share their images. Goodness knows what insights it might lead to. So, let's talk.

Who Has Seen God?

Nobody I know has seen the whole of the Divine Source/Force. Some may feel that they have had glimpses of the Divinity and others who have had a near death experience are among them, but I can't imagine a divinity small enough to be contained (constrained?) in a single visible entity. Some of us find it comforting to image God as a nurturing father or as a loving mother, but if we restrict our whole concept of the Divine to that one image, then we risk the sins of idolatry and intolerance. In idolatry, we exclude all other images and we lose something. Such a small god cannot represent the whole truth and we are at risk of missing out on something more wonderful. In intolerance, we fight to protect (project?) our image and put down other people's images. It is arrogant to think (and act) as though we alone held the whole truth and had the Divine in our lifeboat. Some religions and some Christian denominations are prime examples of this and look at the disunity and splintering it causes.

And My Point Is?

I want to encourage all of us to think about the divine spark that is in us and every creature. I want us to enrich our conversations with speculation and sharing of instances and images of the Divine in our experiences. I want us to be more aware of the sacred space we carry about us. I want us to be more alert to the sacredness of our life-boat planet and quit raping Earth and pissing in our drinking water. [I could go on about the holy calling of recycling and reusing, but I'll save that for another time.]

This is a holy planet (perhaps unique in the universe, but that may be a conceit) and all life is sacred. Nature doesn't need us humans and in fact could do better without us and our waste. So now that summer is here and we are out and about, take time to notice where you walk and what you pass. Hug a tree; thank a flower or creature for its beauty and animation; sink your hands and feet into the earth and feel grounded; smile at someone who doesn't have one, and take a deep breath among the trees and celebrate being alive.

"I think it pisses God off if you walk by the purple in a field somewhere and don't notice it..." [Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*]

God of Relationships

From what I know of the Divine, Creator needs us and wants to be (and is) in intimate relationship with us. I suspect (boy, do I have questions for Creator when I transfer to the next stage after death!) that Creator made us in order to experience what we experience. I suspect that the Source of All dreamed of what we might experience but was incapable of that direct experience until we had it. I could be wrong; I don't claim to have the whole truth about anything; I just want to spark you to some speculation of your own. Anyway, having made us as sexual beings, Creator thrills when we do and cringes when we do. Holy Orgasm. Batwoman! You mean that even with the lights out and the covers drawn, Creator knows what I'm doing in bed with someone else, or as a solo? You've got it! And I suspect I'm pleased with this connection. My Source and Destiny is intimately connected to me and all others. When

Continued on page 23

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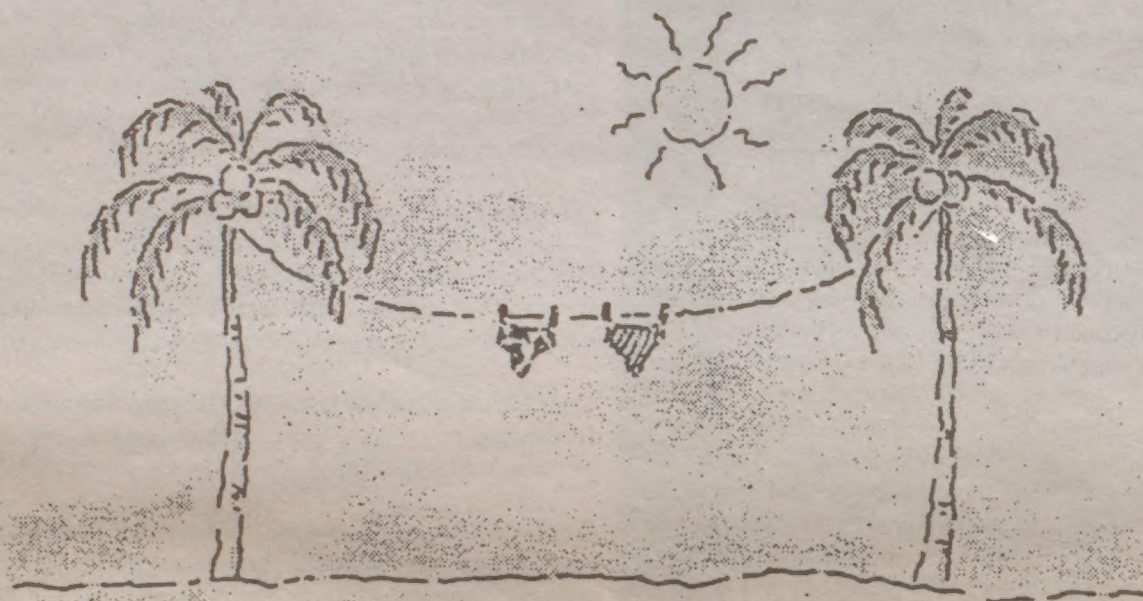
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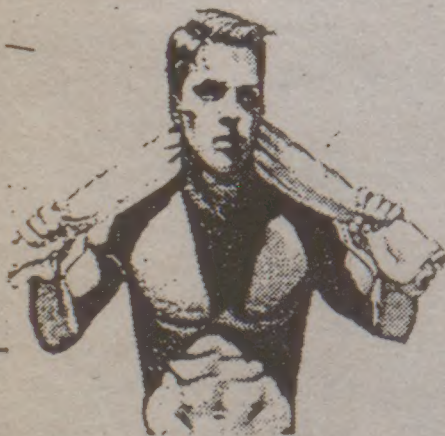
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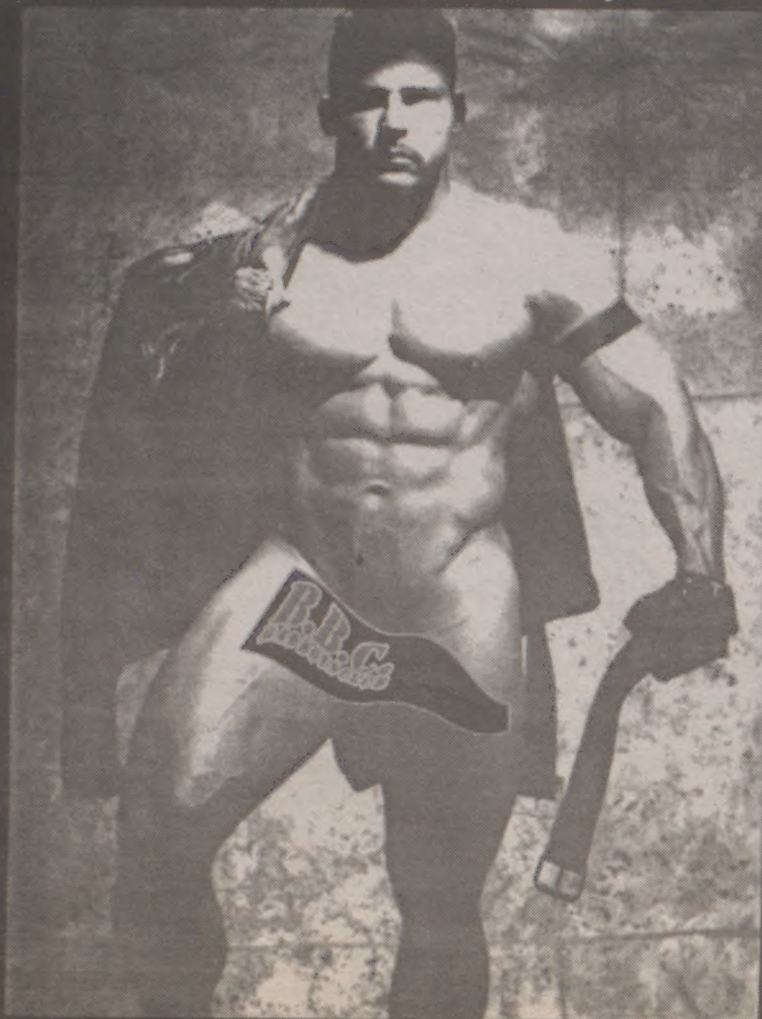
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Northern Titans Update

The Northern Titans Bowling League invites you to join them on the evening of August 29 for two free games of ten-pin bowling. It's a great opportunity to try your hand at this challenging sport, with the league members on hand to help you get the hang of it. No experience is necessary — everyone was a beginner once!

The Northern Titans Bowling League has been operating for eight years, the past two at Pins and Cues in the Westmount Shopping Centre. As a member of the International Gay Bowling Organization, the league welcomes gays and lesbians, as well as their friends and families. Join the league by yourself, with a friend, or with a group of friends. With three-member teams, it's easy to enter more than one team. If you're alone, we'll be glad to place you on a team.

The Northern Titans Bowling League has a regular Saturday evening bowling time, from 5 to 7 p.m., September to April. It's a fun, inexpensive sport that has developed into much more than just another bowling league. Each week, the group usually finishes by going out to dinner together. The league also organizes parties for Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day. It's truly a family outing — there's a playroom for the kids, with a Pizza Hut Express and restaurant on site. Everyone is welcome — singles, partners, and single parents. Of course, because the bowling alley is at Westmount Shopping Centre, there is lots of free parking available.

Part of the fun of bowling is developing new friendships through friendly competition. Each week, prizes are awarded for three strikes in a row. Each May, awards are presented at the year-end party to both experienced and inexperienced bowlers. There are both men's and ladies awards, team awards and individual awards. They range from low game to high game, and from low average to high average awards.

Along with the weekly competition, the league holds a tournament each November, where gay bowlers from out of town come to compete. As well, members of the league are encouraged to participate in out-of-town tournaments themselves.

As a non-profit organization, the Northern Titans Bowling League supports the Edmonton gay and lesbian community. The weekly bowling, combined with the social activities organized by the league, make it easy to develop new friendships and to refresh old ones. Future plans also include organized bar nights.

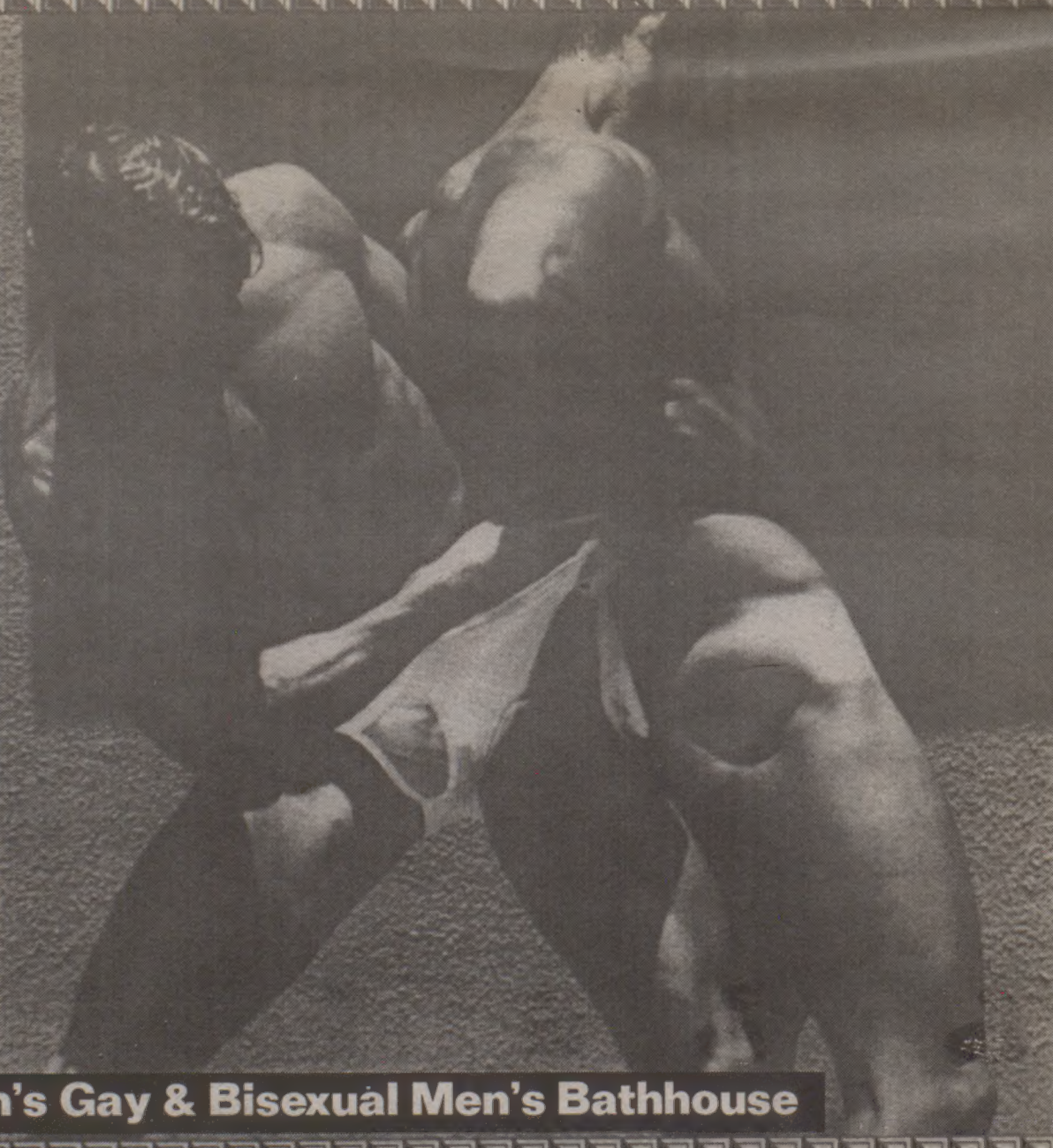
Join us at our Fun Bowl night on August 29 to try a new sport or to continue one you've played before. If you'd like further information about the Northern Titans Bowling League, contact Garry Billet at 454-8609 (you can also e-mail him at davegarry@v-wave.com), Krystal Seitner Hagar at 489-1733, or Kent Racher at 454-0313. We'd love to have you become one of the group!

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Edmonton's Gay & Bisexual Men's Bathhouse

Let's Play...

Continued from page 20

I hurt someone else, Creator senses that as well as they do. When I pleasure someone else or myself, Our Source is in heaven.

Sex and Sanctity

So I think sex is a powerful bonding agent in a relationship and Creator is always a present partner -a Holy Threesome (or is that Trinity?! Yet many of us have been raised with confusing messages from our religious communities and our elders about sex -a message that sounds to us like, "Sex is dirty and nasty and filthy, so save it for the one you love." [Daniel Spencer, *Gay and Gaia*]. It seems so dirty that we don't talk about it seriously in polite (straight) social circles; we only tell 'off-colour' jokes about it. It seems so filthy that it is never talked about (let alone celebrated) in churches and synagogues, except to state grim warnings and prohibitions. Creator must be wincing at all this denial of

that gift that lasts a lifetime. Then our efforts to control sex have driven it below the surface and caused untold abuse when it erupts, for it is a life force that will not be entombed. Let sex out into the sunlight. Talk about sex with respect and joy. I think that is one of the gifts we can offer to the straight world - respectful talk about sex in our lives. Being honest about what thrills us, and what pleasures we share with others, will keep others from thinking that they are 'warped' or 'the only ones' and will promote a healthier climate for sharing this essential aspect of our being. My sexual orientation is a gift from my Creator. My sexual behaviour is my gift to my partner and my Creator. What's yours?

Let's talk.

Bibliography:

Spencer, Daniel. *Gay and Gaia: Ethics, Ecology, and the Erotic*. Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1996.

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1982.

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Business Directory

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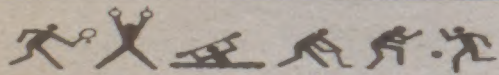
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